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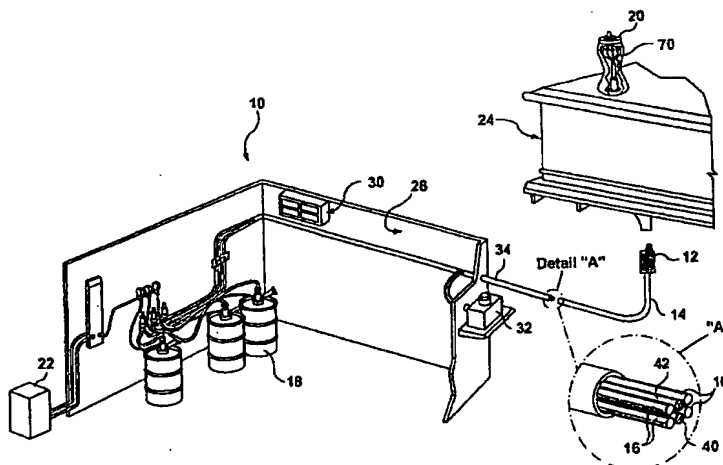
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(54) Title: **INLINE BOOSTER FOR BEVERAGE DISPENSING SYSTEM**



(57) **Abstract:** A beverage distribution system is provided for boosting the cooling capacity of conventional beer dispensing systems. This reduces the tendency of beer to foam prior to the dispensing of same. The beverage distribution system has a container for storing a beverage and a cooler for refrigerating the container and the beverage stored therein. The system also includes a beverage dispensing unit and a distribution line for delivering the beverage from the container to the dispensing unit. A trunk line extends substantially from or near the cooler to or near the dispensing tower. It includes the distribution line and a refrigerant line in an abutting relationship. The system has a heat transfer unit connected to the trunk line which is filled by refrigerant accumulating from the refrigerant line. The heat transfer unit has a coil connected to the distribution line for immersing a portion of the beverage in a bath of the refrigerant. A refrigeration loop circulates refrigerant through the heat transfer unit. Methods for chilling a beverage and reducing the foaming of beer using the beverage distribution system are also provided.

WO 2004/016545 A3

**WO 2004/016545 A3**



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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/CA 03/01241

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 B67D1/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 B67D F28D F25D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| Y          | GB 2 327 748 A (SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE PLC)<br>3 February 1999 (1999-02-03)  | 1,3-9,13              |
| X          | page 17, line 1 - line 19<br>-----   | 10-12                 |
| Y          | US 4 730 463 A (STANFILL TED M)<br>15 March 1988 (1988-03-15)<br>column 2, line 4 - line 54; figure 1<br>-----                     | 1,3-9,13              |
| X          | US 5 309 987 A (CARLSON V R)<br>10 May 1994 (1994-05-10)<br>figure 1<br>-----  | 10,11                 |
| X          | EP 0 244 031 A (UMMELS JOHANNES A M)<br>4 November 1987 (1987-11-04)<br>abstract; figure 2<br>column 4, line 51 - line 53<br>----- | 10-12                 |
|            | -/--   |                       |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                 | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X          | WO 01/036582 A (FOSTER PETER THOMAS<br>;SCULLION SIMON DANIEL (GB); BASS PLC<br>(GB); SM) 25 May 2001 (2001-05-25) | 10-12                 |
| A          | page 31, line 6 - page 32, line 7; figure<br>20  | 1,3,4,7,<br>13        |
| X          | -----<br>US 2 342 299 A (PEET GERALD D)<br>22 February 1944 (1944-02-22)   | 10                    |
| A          | page 1, column 1, line 48 - line 50;<br>figures 1,8  | 1-3,7,8,<br>13        |
| A          | -----<br>GB 2 194 840 A (KOOLTECH LIMITED)<br>16 March 1988 (1988-03-16)<br>page 1, line 39 - line 109<br>-----    | 1-4,7,8,<br>13        |

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/CA 03/01241

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-13

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-13

Product claims 1-9 relate to a beverage distribution system comprising a beverage container being cooled by a cooler, a dispensing unit, a trunk line comprising a distribution line and a refrigeration line, and a heat transfer unit. Method claim 13 relates to a method for obtaining a beverage distribution system which chills a beverage.

1.1. claims: 10-12

Claims 10-12 relate to a heat transfer unit comprising a housing, an inlet tube, an outlet tube and a further tube.

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2. claims: 14-16

Claims 14-16 relate to a method for reducing foaming of beer which is dispensed from a distribution system, by cooling a keg and controlling certain pressure and flowrate values.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Publication No

PCT/CA/03/01241

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |   | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s)  | Publication<br>date  |
|---|---|---------------------|---|--|
| GB 2327748                                | A | 03-02-1999          | NONE  |  |
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| US 2342299                                | A | 22-02-1944          | NONE  |  |
| GB 2194840                                | A | 16-03-1988          | NONE  |  |